GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4314
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
CALAMITY RELIEF FUND
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have diverted hundreds of crores of rupees given to them as CRF for distribution of seeds, fertilizers and chemicals and purchase of silpaulins etc.;

(b) whether the Government have checked the spending of money from CRF for purposes other than the CRF activities;

(c) the action taken against the State Governments which diverted the funds;

(d) the steps taken to ensure that the funds are not diverted;

(e) whether responsibility and accountability has been fixed for not being vigilant in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI)

(a) to (f): it is primarily for the States to provide relief to the affected people in the wake of natural disasters. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments where necessary. Distribution of relief on ground is the responsibility of the State concerned. The States have well-established audit and vigilance procedures of their own, including oversight by the legislature. In case of specific irregularities, which come to the knowledge of the Central Government, the matter is examined in consultation with the States. In cases where it is established that CRF funds have been applied to items of expenditure not covered by the norms the CRF balances of the State are computed after disregarding such expenditure.